

# Myosotis traversii var. cantabrica

## COMMON NAME

Travers' forget-me-not

## SYNONYMS

None

## FAMILY

Boraginaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Myosotis traversii* var. *cantabrica* L.B.Moore

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## NVS CODE

MYOTVC

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 48

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island. East of the main divide from mid-Canterbury southwards.

## HABITAT

Subalpine to alpine. In scree and on rock up to 2100 m.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tufted perennial herb dying back to rootstock in winter. Rosettes one or several, leaves spatulate, 20-70 × 4-9 mm, petiole broad and ill-defined; leaves hairy, those of adaxial surface notably longer than abaxial, curved and not obscuring epidermis; those of the abaxial surface sparser, shorter and finer, mostly retrorse. Lateral branches ascending or erect, up to 150 mm long, internodes usually < leaves. Upper stem-leaves 12-20 mm long, oblong with rounded tips, hairs crowded on both surfaces, those of the abaxial surface longer, stouter and strongly hooked. Cyme compound, usually ebracteate, 8-flowered, capitate (even in fruit), carried 10-20 mm above leaves in fruit; internodes and pedicels very short. Calyx up to 5 mm long in flower, lobes cut to half calyx length, subacute; short appressed hairs covering whole surface closely, long spreading coarse hairs scattered and conspicuously hooked. Corolla white, c.4 mm diameter, tube c.5 mm long, cylindric, lobes c.1.5 × 1.3 mm, rounded; filaments very short, anthers c.1.2 mm long, with tips projecting above well-developed scales; style usually much > calyx in fruit, stigma capitate. Nutlet 1.4-2.3 × 0.8-1.3 mm, ovate or ovate-elliptic, black.



*Myosotis traversii* var. *cantabrica*.

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St Mary's Range. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

## SIMILAR TAXA

*Myosotis traversii* var. *cantabrica* differs from *M. traversii* var. *traversii* by the presence of numerous hooked (uncinate hairs) on the leaf undersurface. *Myosotis traversii* var. *cinerascens* is distinguished from var. *cantabrica* by the short, smoothly appressed leaf hairs and elongated (rather than capitate) fruiting inflorescence. However, as noted by de Lange *et al.* (2010) intergrading forms between var. *cantabrica* and var. *cinerascens* occur at Prebble Hill and Cave Creek and it is quite possible that var. *cinerascens* is at one extreme of the natural variation exhibited by var. *cantabrica*. Further research into the status of these two varieties is urgently needed.

## FLOWERING

November - February

## FLOWER COLOURS

White

## FRUITING

February - March

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Unknown. Likely to be difficult. Probably best grown in an alpine house or rock garden

## ETYMOLOGY

**myosotis:** Mouse-eared

**traversii:** Named after William Thomas Locke Travers (1819-1903) who was an Irish lawyer, magistrate, politician, explorer, naturalist, photographer. He lived in New Zealand from 1849 and was a fellow of the Linnean Society.

## WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (1 February 2008). Description based on Allan (1961).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan, H.H. 1961: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. I. Government Printer, Wellington.

de Lange, P.J.; Heenan, P.B.; Norton, D.A.; Rolfe, J.R.; Sawyer, J.W.D. 2010: Threatened Plants of New Zealand. Canterbury University Press, Christchurch.

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Myosotis traversii* var. *cantabrica* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/myosotis-traversii-var-cantabrica/> (Date website was queried)

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/myosotis-traversii-var-cantabrica/>